

# FOCUS Bible Study

## Tough Questions



"It's partly because of these non-Christian references to Jesus that no professional historian doubts that a teacher and reputed healer named Jesus really did live and was crucified early in first-century Palestine." J. Dickson

## **Introduction.**

Is the bible reliable? What do people mean when they ask this question? Reliable in terms of what ? Why is this question important? Choose one topic from below and discuss.

- a. Historical accuracy?
- b. Scientific facts about the world?
- c. Truthfulness about the events that happened?
- d. Knowledge about God ?
- e. Interpretation of Historical events?

## **What does the bible say about itself?**

### **2 Tim 3:14-17**

Where does the scriptures come from?

What is the scriptures useful for ?

How should we regard the scriptures?

### **Luke 1:1-4**

Why did Luke write his Gospel?

What did he carefully do?

## **John 20:30-31; 21:24-25**

Why were these events recorded ? What was the purpose?

Why should we trust these stories?

## **Luke 24: 44-47**

So far we have only examined what the New Testament says about itself. What about the Old Testament's reliability? According to this passage in Luke what does Jesus say about the accuracy of the prophecies Old testament scriptures? How are the OT prophecies fulfilled?

**(Optional) If you have time look at the following passages – need extra 15-20 mins)**

### **Jude 3-5**

Why did Jude write his letter?

### **Ezekiel 13:1-7**

How does God treat those who preach lies?

Can we trust the motives of the authors of the bible ? How does this help us in terms of the honesty of the Bible?

## Summary

From the passages above, make a summary of what you have learnt so far.

What does the bible claim about itself?

- Aim and purpose ?
- It's main story ?
- Historical accuracy ?
- Knowledge of God ?
- Relationship between God and humanity?

What does the bible NOT claim about itself ?

- Text book on Scientific facts and natural science. E.g. evolution

### **The study of Ancient documents.**

What makes the Christian Bible different from scriptures of other mainstream religions is the fact that the Bible mentions specific names, places and events in history. This can either be confirmed or denied by evidences from history. The historical truth of the events in the Bible are central to the beliefs of Christians. If they are not true then Christians are fools but if these events are true then the implications are not just for Christians but for everybody.

**If the Bible claims to speak the truth what implications does it have for us and how we live our lives?**